

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-16, 18-31, and 33-35 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-16, 18, 21-27, 29-31, 33, and 34 having been amended, and Claims 2, 17, and 32 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, by way of the present response. Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1- 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over UK Patent Application publication no. 2 322 998 to Cowan et al. (Cowan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,571 to Bullock et al. (Bullock). Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims have overcome the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to communications systems, methods, and connecting modules for communications systems. Independent Claim 1 recites connecting modules each including a power line communications module by which a respective mobile device is configured to communicate via a low voltage grid with other units connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module. At least one visitor location register is connected to at least one low voltage grid by the power line communications module included in the at least one visitor location register, and user identifications are configured to be transmitted to the at least one visitor location register via the low voltage grid by respective mobile devices. Independent Claim 16 recites communicating a respective mobile device, by a power line communications module of a connecting module, via a low voltage network, with other units, which are connected to a low voltage grid via the power

line communications module. The visitor location register is connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module included in the visitor location register, and the user identifications of mobile devices are transmitted to the visitor location register via the low voltage grid by the mobile devices. Independent Claim 31 recites a connecting module including a power line communications module, by which a respective mobile device is configured to communicate via a low voltage grid with other units connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module. The connecting module is configured to store address data by which the connection module is addressable in the low voltage grid and by which the connection module is configured to be linked to associated user identifications in a visitor location register connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module.

Cowan is directed to a method of interconnecting communication networks. Applicants respectfully assert that Cowan does not teach or suggest, and the Office Action explicitly concedes that Cowan does not teach or suggest, however, the claimed features of a visitor location register connected to a low-voltage grid by a power line communications module, as recited in independent Claims 1, 16, and 31.¹

Specifically, independent Claim 1 recites “at least one visitor location register is connected to at least one low voltage grid by the power line communications module included in the at least one visitor location register, and wherein user identifications are configured to be transmitted to the at least one visitor location register via the low voltage grid by respective mobile devices,” independent Claim 16 recites “the visitor location register is connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module included in the visitor location register, and wherein the user identifications of mobile devices are transmitted to the visitor location register via the low voltage grid by the mobile devices,”

¹ Page 3, lines 4-13, of the Office Action.

and independent Claim 31 recites “the connecting module configured to store address data by which the connection module is addressable in the low voltage grid and by which the connection module is configured to be linked to associated user identifications in a visitor location register connected to the low voltage grid via the power line communications module.”

The Office Action relies on Bullock in an attempt to remedy the deficiencies of Cowan. Applicants respectfully assert that Bullock does not remedy these deficiencies, however, for the following reasons.

The Office Action asserts that Bullock “teach[es] a method and system for receiving, converting, and distributing wireless communication signals received from wireless communications devices over AC power lines.”² Applicants respectfully assert that even if Applicants’ agreed with these assertions, which Applicants do not, Bullock still does not remedy the deficiencies of Cowan.

Specifically, Applicants respectfully assert that Bullock does not show or state a visitor location register connected to a low-voltage grid by a power line communications module. Rather, Applicants respectfully assert that at most Bullock may teach a visitor location register which is not directly connected (i.e., wirelessly connected) to AC power lines.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention can provide numerous advantages that are not provided by Cowan and Bullock, whether taken alone or in combination. By way of specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features recited in independent Claims 1, 16, and 31 can permit a plurality of mobile devices to communicate directly via power lines, without use of an intermediate radio network. The mobile devices can be connected to a low power voltage grid by connecting

² Page 3, lines 14-16, of the Office Action.

modules. The connecting modules can be identified through addresses and can be registered in the visitor location register connected to the low voltage grid as power line communications module users. The visitor location register can locate mobile devices connected to the power line, such that the mobile devices can be located in response to inquiries from users of a power line network on a mobile radio network.

Thus, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 1, 16, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 1, 16, and 31.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 3-15, 18-30, and 33-35 are allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 3-15, 18-30, and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of dependent Claims 3-15, 18-30, and 33-35.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 3-16, 18-31, and 33-35 is earnestly solicited.

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Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,

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